

THE
L I F E
OF
F A I T H,
Exemplified and recommended,
IN A
LETTER found in the Study of a
Reverend DIVINE, Deceased.

In Answer to this Question,

*How may the Christian pass comfortably through
this World to a better?*

To which are added,

Some *Scriptures* adapted to the Subject; and a few
Verses, composed upon reading of it.



L O N D O N:
Printed in the Year M.DCC.LI.



A LETTER found in the Study
of a REVEREND DIVINE, since his
Decease.

Dear Brother,

YOURS I received, and thought on that Question, *How may the Christian pass comfortably through this World to a better?* It is one of the common Pleas of my Heart, which I have often Occasion to study, and therefore takes me not unprovided. It is hard to keep the Helm up against so many cross Winds * as we meet withal upon this Sea of Fire and Glass. That Man knoweth not his own Heart, that finds it not difficult to break through the Entanglements of the World.—*Creature-smiles* stop and entice away the Affections from JESUS CHRIST: *Creature-frowns* encompass and tempestuate the Spirit, that it thinks it doth well to be angry. Both Ways Grace is a Loser.—We had all Need to watch and pray, lest we enter into Temptations.—The greatest of your Conflicts and Causes of Complaints, seem to have their Original here; Temptations follow Tempers.—As there are two predominant Qualities in the Temper of every Body; so there are two predominant Sins in the Temper of every Heart; *Pride* is one in all Men in the World.—I will tell you familiarly what GOD hath done for my Soul, and in what manner my Soul keeps toward himself. I am come to a Conclusion to look after no great Matters in the World, but to know CHRIST, and him crucified. I make best Way in a low Gale. A high Spirit and a high Sail together will be dangerous; and therefore I prepare to live low. I desire not much, I pray against it; my Study is my Calling, so much as may enable me to tend that without Distraction, I am bound to plead for; and more I desire not.—By my secluded Retirements, I
have

* Num. xxi. 4.

have the Advantage to observe how every Day's Occasions insensibly wear off the Heart from God, and bury it in Self, which they who live in Care and Cumber, cannot be sensible of.—I have seemed to see a Need of every Thing God gives me; and to want nothing that he denies me.—There is no Dispensation, tho' afflictive, but either in it, or after it, I find I could not be without it; whether it be taken from me, or not given to me, sooner or later God quiets me in Himself without it.—I cast all my Concerns on the LORD, and live securely on the Care and Wisdom of my heavenly Father.—My Ways, you know, are in some Sense hedged up with Thorns, and grow darker and darker daily: But yet I distrust not my good God in the least, and live more quietly in the Absence of all, by Faith; than I should do, I am persuaded, if I possessed them.—I think the LORD deals kindly with me, to make me believe for all my Mercies, before I have them: They will then be *Isaacs*, Sons of Laughter.—The less Reason hath to work upon, the more freely Faith casts itself on the Faithfulness of God.—I find, that whilst Faith is steady, nothing can disquiet me; and when Faith totters, nothing can establish me: If I trust to Means and Creatures, I am presently lost, and can come to no End: But if I stay myself on God, and leave him to work in his own Way and Time, I am at rest, and can sit down and sleep in a Promise, when a Thousand rise up against me; therefore, my Way is not to cast before Hand, but to work with God by the Day: *Sufficient to the Day is the Evil thereof*.—I find so much to do continually with my Calling and my Heart, that I have no Time to puzzle myself with Peradventures* and Futurities.—As for the State of the Times, it is gloomy and tempestuous: *But why do the Heathen rage?* Faith lies at Anchor in the midst of the Waves,

* Chron. xx. 20.

Waves, and believes the Accomplishment of the Promise through all those Overturnings, Confusions, and seeming Impossibilities †.—Upon this GOD do I live, who is our GOD for ever, and will guide us to the Death : Methinks I lie becalmed in his Bosom, as *Lutber* in such a Case. I am not much concerned, let CHRIST see to it.—I know Prophecies are now dark, and the Books are sealed, and Men have all been deceived, and every Cistern fails ; yet GOD doth continue faithful ; and faithful is he that hath promised, who will do it.—I believe these dark Times are the Womb of a bright Morning.—Many things more I might have said, but enough. Oh ! Brother, keep close to GOD, and then you need fear nothing. Maintain secret and intimate Communion with GOD, and then a little of the Creature will go a great Way.—Take Time for Duties in private. Croud not Religion into a Corner of the Day. There is a *Dutch* Proverb, *Nothing is got by Thieving, nor lost by Praying*.—Lay up all your Good in GOD, so as to over-balance the Sweetness and Bitterness of all Creatures.—Spend no Time anxiously in Forehand Contrivances for this World ; they never succeed ; GOD will run his Dispensations another Way. Self-contrivances are the Effects of Unbelief.—I can speak by Experience ; would Men spend those Hours they run out in Plots and Devices, in Communion with GOD, and leave all on him, in the way of Duty, by venturesome believing, they would have more of Peace and Comfort.—I leave you with your GOD and mine. The LORD JESUS be with your Spirit. Pray for your own Soul ; pray for *Jerusalem* ; and pray hard for your poor Brother.

There is none like unto the God of Jeshurun, who rideth upon the Heaven in thine Help.—The eternal God is thy Refuge, and underneath are the everlasting

have the Advantage to observe how every Day's Occasions insensibly wear off the Heart from God, and bury it in Self, which they who live in Care and Cumber, cannot be sensible of.—I have seemed to see a Need of every Thing God gives me; and to want nothing that he denies me.—There is no Dispensation, tho' afflictive, but either in it, or after it, I find I could not be without it; whether it be taken from me, or not given to me, sooner or later God quiets me in Himself without it.—I cast all my Concerns on the LORD, and live securely on the Care and Wisdom of my heavenly Father.—My Ways, you know, are in some Sense hedged up with Thorns, and grow darker and darker daily: But yet I distrust not my good God in the least, and live more quietly in the Absence of all, by Faith; than I should do, I am persuaded, if I possessed them—I think the LORD deals kindly with me, to make me believe for all my Mercies, before I have them: They will then be *Isaacs*, Sons of Laughter.—The less Reason hath to work upon, the more freely Faith casts itself on the Faithfulness of God.—I find, that whilst Faith is steady, nothing can disquiet me; and when Faith totters, nothing can establish me: If I trust to Means and Creatures, I am presently lost, and can come to no End: But if I stay myself on God, and leave him to work in his own Way and Time, I am at rest, and can sit down and sleep in a Promise, when a Thousand rise up against me; therefore, my Way is not to cast before Hand, but to work with God by the Day: *Sufficient to the Day is the Evil thereof.*—I find so much to do continually with my Calling and my Heart, that I have no Time to puzzle myself with Peradventures* and Futurities.—As for the State of the Times, it is gloomy and tempestuous: *But why do the Heathen rage?* Faith lies at Anchor in the midst of the Waves,

* Chron. xx. 20.

Waves, and believes the Accomplishment of the Promise through all those Overturnings, Confusions, and seeming Impossibilities †.—Upon this God do I live, who is our God for ever, and will guide us to the Death : Methinks I lie becalmed in his Bosom, as *Luther* in such a Case. I am not much concerned, let CHRIST see to it.—I know Prophecies are now dark, and the Books are sealed, and Men have all been deceived, and every Cistern fails ; yet GOD doth continue faithful ; and faithful is he that hath promised, who will do it.—I believe these dark Times are the Womb of a bright Morning.—Many things more I might have said, but enough. Oh ! Brother, keep close to GOD, and then you need fear nothing. Maintain secret and intimate Communion with GOD, and then a little of the Creature will go a great Way.—Take Time for Duties in private. Croud not Religion into a Corner of the Day. There is a *Dutch* Proverb, *Nothing is got by Thieving, nor lost by Praying*.—Lay up all your Good in GOD, so as to over-balance the Sweetness and Bitterness of all Creatures.—Spend no Time anxiously in Forehand Contrivances for this World ; they never succeed ; GOD will run his Dispensations another Way. Self-contrivances are the Effects of Unbelief.—I can speak by Experience ; would Men spend those Hours they run out in Plots and Devices, in Communion with GOD, and leave all on him, in the way of Duty, by venturesome believing, they would have more of Peace and Comfort.—I leave you with your GOD and mine. The LORD JESUS be with your Spirit. Pray for your own Soul ; pray for *Jerusalem* ; and pray hard for your poor Brother.

There is none like unto the God of Jeshurun, who rideth upon the Heaven in thine Help.—The eternal God is thy Refuge, and underneath are the everlasting

ing Arms.—Happy art thou, O Israel! who is like unto thee, O People saved by the Lord, the Shield of thy Help, and who is the Sword of thy Excellency! and thine Enemies shall be found Liars unto thee, &c. Deut. xxxiii. 26—29.

The Lord also will be a Refuge for the Oppressed, a Refuge in Times of Trouble — And they that know thy Name will put their Trust in thee: For thou Lord, hast not forsaken them that seek thee. Psal. ix 9, 10

O how great is thy Goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee; which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee, before the Sons of Men! — Thou shalt hide them in the Secret of thy Presence, &c. Psal. xxxi. 19, 20.

Trust in the Lord, and do good, so shall thou dwell in the Land, and verily thou shalt be fed—Commit thy Way also unto the Lord; trust also in him, and he shall bring it to pass — Depart from Evil, and do good; and dwell for evermore — For the Lord loveth Judgment, and forsaketh not his Saints, they are preserved for ever. Psal. xxxvii. 3, 5, 27, 28.

Yea, they spake against God: They said; "God ~~can~~ furnish a Table in the Wilderness? — Can he give Bread also? Can he provide Flesh for his People? — Therefore the Lord heard this, and was wroth, and Anger came up against Israel — Because they believed not in God, and trusted not in his Salvation — Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel. Psal. lxxviii. 19,—22, 41.

Thou wilt keep him in perfect Peace, whose Mind is stayed on thee; because he trusteth in thee — Trust ye in the Lord for ever; for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting Strength. Isa. xxvi. 3, 4.

Thus saith the Lord, cursed is the Man that trusteth in Man, and maketh Flesh his Arm, and whose Heart departeth from the Lord, &c.—Blessed is the Man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose Hope the Lord is.—For he shall be as a Tree planted by the Waters, and that spreadeth out her Roots by the River,

River, and shall not see when Heat cometh, but her Leaf shall be green, and shall not be careful in the Year of Drought, nether shall cease from yielding Fruit. Jer. xvii. 5—8.

Although the Fig Tree shall not blossom, neither shall Fruit be in the Vines, the Labour of the Olive shall fail, and the Fields shall yield no Meat,—yet will I rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my Salvation, &c. Habuk. iii. 17, 18.

Therefore I say unto you, take no Thought for your Life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your Body what ye shall put on: Is not the Life more than Meat, and the Body than Raiment?—Behold the Fowls of the Air; for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into Barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them: Are not ye much better than they?—But seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and his Righteousness, and all these Things shall be added unto you.—For your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these Things, &c. Matt. vi. 25—34.

Let not your Heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.—In my Father's House are many Mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you, I go to prepare a Place for you.—And I will come again, and receive you unto myself, that where I am, there ye may be also. John xiv. 1—3.

Being justified by Faith, we have Peace with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ; and rejoice in Hope of the Glory of God.—And not only so, but we glory in Tribulations also, knowing that Tribulation worketh Patience;—and Patience, Experience; and Experience, Hope.—And Hope maketh not ashamed, because the Love of God is shed abroad in our Hearts, &c. Rom. v. 1—5.

I live; yet not I but Christ liveth in me; and the Life which I now live in the Flesh, I live by the Faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. Gal. ii. 20.

Be careful for nothing ; but in every thing by Prayer and Supplication with Thanksgiving, let your Requests be made known unto God. — And the Peace of God which passeth all Understanding, shall keep your Hearts and Minds through Christ Jesus. Phil. iv. 6, 7.

I am not ashamed ; for I know whom I have believed (or trusted) and am persuaded, that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that Day, 2 Tim i. 12.

Let your Conversation be without Covetousness ; and be content with such Things as ye have : for He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. — So that we may boldly say, the Lord is my Helper, and I will not fear, &c. Heb. xiii. 5—6.

I.

*In all my Trouble, sharp and strong,
My Soul to JESUS flies ;
My Anchor bold is firm in him,
When swelling Billows rise.*

II.

*His Comforts bear my Spirits up,
I trust a faithful GOD :
The sure Foundation of my Hope,
Is in a Saviour's Blood.*

III.

*Loud Hallelujahs sing, my Soul,
To thy Redeemer's Name :
In Joy and Sorrow, Life and Death,
His Love is still the same.*

